



**Course:** A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

**Lesson:** 11 (Part 3)

**Passage:** Joshua - Survey

**PROMISES of GOD** (Joshua 1:5)

**The LORD Is With US!**

**Be Strong and Courageous** (Joshua 1:6-9)

**“Then”** (Joshua 1:10)

- The first Hebrew “word” in verse 10 is “**א**”. It is really only a letter attached to the word “**צו**” which means “to command, to direct, to give orders, to order”.
- This little word is translated “then” or “so” or “and”.
- The **will of God** was absolutely clear.
- It was **not** time to call the leaders together and “talk about” what they as a nations should or should not do.
- It was time to **act**. When God’s will is clear we are to **act**.
- Psalm 119:60 – “I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments.”
- Joshua had learned that there is **GREAT DANGER** in disobedience and delay in keeping God’s commandments.
  - About 40 years earlier Joshua pleaded with God’s people to enter the land – see Numbers 14:6-10.
  - The Lord’s response was clear – Numbers 14:11-12, 20-23, 26-29, 35
- The writer of Hebrews **warns** us that disobedience has severe consequences! (See Hebrews 3:7-19)

- Whatever we do (and we are to do the will of God) we are to do it with all of our heart unto the Lord, not men! (Colossians 3:23)

**Prepare to Move** (1:10-11)

- Joshua assembled the leader (officers) by blowing the silver trumpets. (See Numbers 10:1-10)
- Joshua **commands** (he assumes his role as leader).
- NOTICE Joshua’s **faith** – it is demonstrated in **absolute confidence** in the Word of God. Note the verb tense he uses – “you will”.
- Joshua’s confidence is in the LORD and not Israel’s fighting capabilities.
- Joshua understood that God was going to act but he as the leader of the people had to be sure they, too, made preparations.

**Outline of Joshua 2**

- Spies commission by Joshua (1a)
  - Spies in Jericho (2-7)
    - **Testimony of Rahab** (8-14)
  - Escape from Jericho (15-21)
- Report of Spies to Joshua (22-24)

**The POINT of Joshua 2**

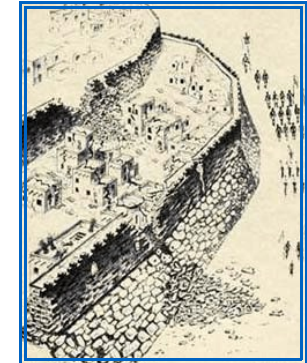
**The FAITH of Rahab**

- The **most important thing** about Rahab is her **faith**.
- The **most important thing** about anyone is their **faith**. Without **faith** it is **impossible** to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
- There is biblical saving faith and then there is counterfeit faith!
- Scripture speaks of different kinds of faith:
  - ① A **vain** (empty) faith. (1 Corinthians 15:14)
  - ② A **dead** faith. (James 2:17, 20)
  - ③ A **demon’s** faith. (James 2:19)
  - ④ A **God-given** faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Scripture **warns** us that **many** will die with a **counterfeit** faith! (Matt. 7:23)

**The Importance of Joshua 2**

- How important is Joshua 2 to us! We want to learn from Rahab’s faith! Do **we** have faith like Rahab’s faith?
- God is working all things for our good! (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; Lamentations 3:37)
- God is working ALL of HISTORY for our good!

- God is orchestrating the events in Joshua for our learning. (Romans 15:4)
- God will use Rahab **three** times in the New Testament!
  - ★ Only **two** women are mentioned in Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter)
    - Sarah – Hebrews 11:11
    - Rahab – Hebrews 11:31
  - ★ Rahab is associated with Abraham in James 2:21-26
  - ★ Rahab is listed in the ancestry of the Messiah!!! (Matthew 1:5)
- God was moving historical events and people for a greater purpose – to reveal Himself and to teach **us**!!



### Painting the Joshua 2 Picture



- Two million people camped on the other side of the Jordan River!
- Spies – both sides.
- Rumors or facts.
- **Fear:**
  - The Israelites were commanded not to fear. (Deut. 1:21; 3:22; 31:6, 8)
  - God promised to put into their enemies. (Deut. 2:25; 11:25)

- The Israelites were to fear GOD! (Deut. 4:10; 5:29; 6:2, 13, 24; 8:6; 13:4; 14:23; 17:19; 28:58; 31:12, 13)
- Fear was a **curse** God promised to put on the Israelites if they disobeyed His commands. (Deuteronomy 28:66, 67)

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### Spies Commissioned by Joshua (v. 1a)

- **SHITTIM or Acacia Grove:** See Numbers 25:1; Numbers 33:49
- **JERICO:** One of many “city-states” that had its own king.
  - It was a **fortified** city with double walls. (Deut. 9:1)
- **SO THEY WENT . . .**

### The House of Rahab

- “harlot” – זָנָה <sup>zaw-naw'</sup> zarah {zaw-naw'} – harlot, prostitute, cult prostitute.
  - Some say that this word can mean “inn keeper” but the New Testament uses the word πόρνη <sup>por-nay</sup> porne {por'-nay} which clearly communicates the meaning “a woman who sells her body for sexual use”; “prostitute”; “harlot”.
- Canaanite. Rahab was not an Israelite – but a GENTILE!
- **BELIEVER!** – She was a believer **before** the Israelite spies came into Jericho.
  - ★ Read carefully James 2:25 and Hebrews 11:31.
- This means that **GOD** was at work before the Israelites crossed the Jordan!!
- Why would God use a harlot? Why would God use YOU?
  - ★ 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

### It Was Told the King (vv. 2, 3)

- The spies had successfully gained entrance to Jericho. (Psalm 127:1)
- This teaches us that the king had his plans but the LORD has His!!! (Proverbs 19:21; Revelation 3:7, 8)
- They had been divinely guided (Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 16:9; 20:24; Jeremiah 10:23) to a **believers** home.

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- And, yet, word got out and a house-to-house search began.
- **LESSON:** The LORD could have prevented the spies' discovery but chose not to. He did so when the 12 tribes entered Canaan in Numbers 13.
  - We are **not** exempt from trials and tribulations in this world. If fact, we are **promised** that we will have **many** such trials. (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Romans 8:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:4; 2 Timothy 1:8; 1 Peter 4:12-16; Revelation 2:10)
  - God allows these trials to **test** and **refine** our faith. He does so to conform us into the image of His Son, Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:29).

### Rahab Actions (vv. 4-7)

- Rahab received the two spies.
- Rahab hid the men.
- Rahab **defied** her king.
  - ★ **We are to obey the king.**
    - Scripture teaches that we are to be **subject** to authorities. (Rom.13:1)
    - We are to be obedient to the laws of the land that provides us a place to stay and other services.
    - Jesus Christ taught that we are to render unto "Caesar" what is Caesar's. (Matthew 22:17-21)
    - Jeremiah wrote that we are seek the good of the country in which we reside. (Jeremiah 29:7)
    - Peter wrote, "Honour the king!" (1 Peter 2:17)
  - ★ **BUT there are times to disobey . . .**
    - The three Hebrews in Daniel 3 refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's statute. (Daniel 3:18)
    - Daniel refused **not to pray** when it was commanded that none should pray to anyone but the king. (Daniel 6:10)
    - Peter wrote, "**FEAR GOD**, honour the king!" (1 Peter 2:17)
    - Peter spoke, "We ought to obey God rather than man." (Acts 5:29)
  - ★ **THOSE WHO DISOBEY MUST ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.**
    - In receiving these spies, she was **laying down** here life for the brethren. (1 John 3:16)

### Was Rahab's Lie Justified

- **FIRST**, let's remember the focus of GOD's WORD is Rahab's FAITH – NOT her lie!
- **SECOND**, we remember **few** of other lies recorded in the Bible. See handout, *Lies in the Bible*.
- **THIRD**, we are speaking of a **new believer** whose knowledge of God was limited.
- **FOURTH**, lying is **always wrong!** (Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 12:22; 6:16-17; Revelation 21:8, 15)
- Some things that are said (taught) to justify Rahab's lie:
  - ⊗ "the end justifies the means" – "if we aim at a praiseworthy object it is permissible to use questionable or even evil means to attain the same"
  - ⊗ "circumstances alter cases" – the circumstances or situation may justify doing evil. Consider what one preacher has said, "She must either utter them (lies) or else betray the spies, and their lives would have been lost."
  - ⊗ God Himself approved of Rahab's lie. **BUT** Scripture no where proves this!

### What Makes Any Action Good in God's Eyes

- 1 It must proceed from a holy principle.
- 2 It must be regulated by the Rule of righteousness.
- 3 It must be done in a right spirit of faith and love.
- 4 It must be performed with a right end in view – the glory of God and/or the good of His people.

### Lessons to Learn

- 1 A good motive never makes an evil action good.
  - 2 This **lie** is recorded for our learning (Romans 15:4)
    - Rahab, in faith, received the spies.
    - At the risk of her own life she welcomed and hid them.
    - **YET**, her faith failed her when the searching party came.
- ★ LET US LEARN!

③ The PROVIDENCE of God must be taken into consideration in situations such as these.

④ The Lord taught us to pray **daily**, “Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil.” (Matt. 6:13)

⑤ We do not know the future. Our responsibility is to **OBEY**.

⑥ “Simply because something works out in the end does not imply that the means are justified before God.”

⑦ The Bible **never** condones lying but **only** condemns it.

⑧ Rahab’s faith, **like ours**, was strong **and** it was weak!

“God’s constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, directing all things to their appointed end for His own glory and for the good of His people.”

### Rahab’s Faith (Joshua 2:8-14)

① (vv. 8-9) **She testified of her faith.**

- She “said” to them.
- 2 Corinthians 4:13
- “I am not ashamed of the Gospel” (Romans 1:16)
- We are **warned** of being ashamed of the Words of our faith. (Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26)

② (v. 9) **Her confidence** (firm persuasion).

- She said, **“I know . . .”** – not “I hope” or “if” or “perhaps”.
  - Her faith was God given – see Matthew 16:13-17
- Faith is **KNOWING**. (Just in Romans: 2:2; 3:19; **5:3-5**; 6:6, 9, 16; 7:1, 14, 18; 8:22, 28; 11:2; 13:11; 14:14)

③ (v. 9) **Her fear.**

- “The fear of God is the **beginning** of knowledge.” (Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 111:10)
  - The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. Psalm 25:14
  - All the earth is exhorted to fear the Lord. Psalm 33:8.
  - The “eye” of the LORD is upon them that fear Him. Psalm 33:18
  - The angel of the LORD is encamped all around those who fear Him. Psalm 34:7

- **NOTE: God had promised that HE would put His fear into the peoples that the Israelites would come up against.** (See Exodus 15:14-16; 23:27; Deuteronomy 2:25; 11:25; 28:10)

④ (vv. 10, 11) **Her hearing.**

- Contrast her “hearing” with those of the generation of Israel that “fell” in the wilderness. They heard **and** saw the great things God had done! **YET** they “did not hear” and God swore that they would never enter His rest. (Hebrews 3:7-19). **HEED THE WARNING!!!**
- Her fellow citizens had heard the same things she had heard, but they did not produce faith in any of them!!
- Hearing is NOT enough! Hearing must be accompanied with POWER and the POWER is the gift of **grace** – namely **faith**.

⑤ **Her faith was based on FACTS.**

- She heard what God had done.
- Biblical faith is based on knowledge, data, and evidence.
- We are commanded to teach our children the great things that God has done. (Psalm 78:1-8; Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
- We are to proclaim the mighty acts of God to the next generation. (Psalm 145:1-13)
- **A generation deprived of the facts about God will grow into a generation that does not KNOW God.** (Judges 2:10-15)

⑥ (vv. 9-13) **Her testimony of her God.**

- (v. 10) **God’s might.**
  - She knows what happened at the Red Sea (Exodus 14).
  - She knows what happened to King Sihon (Numbers 21:21-31; Deuteronomy 2:24-37) and to King Og (Numbers 21:33-35; Deuteronomy 3:1-11)
- (v. 11) **God’s supremacy.**
  - A woman who had been brought up as a pagan believing in many God’s know testifies that the God of Israel is God in the heavens above and on earth below.! See Deuteronomy 4:39.
  - God is ABOVE the heavens and HERE with us on earth!
- (vv. 12-13) **God’s mercifulness.**
  - Biblical faith **knows, fears, and seeks refuge.**
  - See Matthew 3:7; Luke 3:7.
  - **THE ONLY REFUGE FROM THE WRATH OF GOD IS GOD!**

⑦ **Her faith was accompanied by works.** (James 2:17,20, 24-25, 26)

- Faith without works is no faith at all. Faith without works is dead. Faith without works will not save.
- (Hebrews 11:31) “she received the spies in peace.”

⑧ **Her faith was self-denying** (Luke 9:23).

- She was willing to give up everything in order to have God. (Luke 14:33; Philippians 3:7-14)
- She put her life on the line. Her faith was more valuable than her life. (1 John 3:16; Acts 20:24; Philippians 2:17; Colossians 1:24; Revelation 12:11)

⑨ **Her faith was an enduring faith.**

- She was the only believer in the city.
- She had no prophet, no priest, no Scriptures.
- She **endured** to the end. (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:11; Colossians 1:23; Matthew 13:20-22; 1 Corinthians 15:2)